Project Closeout Report

Project Name State Seed Application Software 2009 Upgrade (SSAS09)

Agency: State Seed

Business Unit/Program Area: Integrated

Project Sponsor: Ken Bertsch

Project Manager: Kris Steussy

Project Description

In 2000-2001, the State Seed Department engaged a local vendor to build a custom application which would support all departmental business processes. That system has been very successful, however, over time the programming language and development tools have become obsolete. The toolset has met our business needs, and the vendor has, to date, been able to successfully update the application as our business needs have changed and evolved. However, the age of the system has caused the department to believe that future upgrades and maintenance will be difficult and costly, putting most of the operational aspects of the business at risk. It is the intent of the State Seed Department to upgrade the current application software from obsolete development tools to current tools meeting state technology standards, specifically Microsoft.net tools and protocols interfacing with Microsoft SQL Server databases.

Business Need or Problem

Existing software meets the needs of our business, however, with industry changes, updates are continually required. Current development tools restrict the ability for upgrades and enhancements. The existing vendor has indicated they may not be able to support the application over the long term.
Needs:

- Cost effective technical solution to carry out daily business processes
- Ability to perform updates and enhancements without dependence on the existing vendor
- Improved and increased reporting capabilities

Key Metrics		
Project Start Date	Estimated Length of Project	Estimated Cost
12-01-2009	Complete by December 31, 2012	$367,000

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Benefits to Be Achieved	
Project Objectives	Measurement Description
Cost effective technical solution to carry out daily business processes	Successful replacement of existing database in Windows.net by December 31, 2012. Replacement to be done in five phases and schedule will be measured as follows: June 30, 2010 – Completion of contacts, contact inquiry, lab programs, inspection of field seeds and final certification. December 31, 2010 – Completion of permit licensing, mailing lists and research fees. June 30, 2011 – Completion of potato field inspection, grade inspection and winter test. December 31, 2011 – Completion of potato samples and potato seedstocks. June 30, 2012 – Completion of receipts and accounts receivable December 31, 2012 – Completion of web directories and on-line data. Successful replacement of existing database at a cost not to exceed $367,000. Costs to be measured as scheduled above.
Ability to perform updates and enhancements without dependence on the existing vendor.	Successful replacement of existing obsolete programming tools in Windows.net meeting ITD standards. Replacement measured as stated above
Improved and increased reporting capabilities and speed of operations	Ability to create additional reports such as graphs and charts from existing data. (ex: chart showing acres of a selected variety over a range of years). Report testing to be done by team members upon completion of each development phase. Increase speed of operations to be measured by time required for sample entry and generation of seed lab reports. Current sample entry is approximately two minutes per sample. Current generation of seed lab report is 30 seconds per report.

Cost/Benefit Analysis
This project will prolong the life of the software well into the future, and permit growth. Based on experience, and considering cost increases, it is anticipated a full re-write of our software would cost close to one million dollars. Additionally, converting the existing software with the existing vendor will virtually eliminate the time required for a new developer to learn our business and achieve the level of expertise Red River Software now possesses. We anticipate this project will require minimal staff time, thus reducing the overall project cost.

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Key Constraints or Risks
Constraints: The project must be completed by December 31, 2012 The project budget is constrained to $367,000. The project must functionally replace existing software. The quality of the finished software project must meet ND State Seed Department and ITD standards.